

06-21-20 Forest Committee TM report

Arden received a \$25,000 Surface Water Management Planning Grant from DNREC with match. Foresite Associates are the engineers for this project. We look forward to having insight into our water management and a base of information to apply for implementation grants. This is a collaborative effort of the Community Planning, Civic, Safety and Forest Committees.

Foresite submitted the following update:

We are currently in the data gathering phase. As with most of the world, production has been slowed slightly due to the pandemic and responding to both community and employee safety, thus site visits have not been performed yet and are the next step in finalizing the gathered data. A desktop analysis has been completed of the watersheds and drainage patterns at the Village scale and at the leasehold scale. These patterns have been paired with the storm drain map provided to us by the Village. The upcoming site visit will truth these drainage patterns and evaluate the landscape conditions as well as the infrastructure conditions.

The anticipated work flow includes answering the following questions as they pertain to water movement through the landscape effecting the water quality within the watershed:

- What is the water responding to? This is best summarized by the current phase of production and includes analysis of the topography, watersheds, groundwater movement, impervious coverage and categorization, storm drain catchment and outfall locations and conditions.
- What does the landscape need to improve water quality? An analysis of what the impairments are, examples of this likely include automobiles, pet waste, yard waste and what best management practices are best suited for the location and impairment, for example is street sweeping enough or should additional practices be implemented to reduce road runoff, and if so where?
- What is the plan? This phase will take the information gathered in the above two questions and create a conceptual plan of suggested improvements. The plan will range in scale from generic vignettes, such as where it is best to place DYI rain gardens in the residential landscapes to what locations would best benefit from a designed green technology BMP, such as a curb bump out.

- How is the plan best implemented? This final section of the findings report will address economic and temporal considerations of the conceptual plan such as what BMPs need further design documentation and permitting, what are the potential costs involved, what sort of maintenance is required to keep the system actively improving water quality.

Tree City planting/Arbor Day celebration will take place in the Fall replacing the traditional April date. This is Arden's 12th year as an official Tree City, of course we have always been a Tree City since our founding.

Check out our new fire permit online (on the Arden Village website). It has been developed by Jen Borders and Jeff Martin, resident Eagle Scout. Also, we are discussing creating a policy/permit for Woods use after hours for special events.

The Forest Committee is planning a Sherwood Forest Border restoration project to reclaim nearly 5000 square feet of encroachment by our neighbors in Sunset Farms. The woods there need invasive species clearing. We hope this project will serve as a model for other leaseholds for placing a healthy edge to the forest so that shade is maintained to discourage invasive species and promote a healthy balance within the forest interior.

Invasive plant species control is ongoing. We are mapping areas so we can attack at strategic times to be most effective. With input from new (ish) resident Bev Clendenning, we hope to have a system of documenting the GPS location of any place a volunteer works so we can coordinate the efforts. If you spend time in the woods removing invasive species, email us so we can log the hours, Jen Borders is keeping track. Volunteer records can have an impact when we are writing grants. We are also monitoring circles of native plants we planted in Sherwood Forest at the end of Hillside last year to see how effective such plantings are at keeping the removed invasive plants at bay. We are seeing successes with those plantings.

We have a several more yards in Arden certified as Wildlife Habitat. Our goal is to certify all Arden as a Wildlife Habitat Community with the National Fish and Wildlife Service and the Delaware Nature Society. You can contact either organization to register your leasehold.

Sherwood Restoration: We continue to monitor the progress of sediment collection and repair in the Sherwood Restoration site. Thus far we have had remarkable survival rate of the plants and a great crop of frogs and tadpoles in the channel. We are excited about the results of the project.

The Forest Committee is planning to work with ACRA this summer to invent woods activities, and extending some of our Patch program activities.